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TEXAS LIBRARIES

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TEXAS LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS. The 1940-41 officers of Texas Library Association are as follows:

President - Miss Julia Grothaus, Librarian, San Antonio Public Library
First Vice President - Donald Coney, Librarian, University of Texas Library
Second Vice President - Ruth Underwood Pooley, El Paso
Secretary - Darthula Wilcox, Librarian, Austin Public Library
Treasurer - Madeline Canova, Library School, Texas State College for Women, Denton
Member-at-large of the Executive Board - Mrs. E. H. Marek, Yoakum

CALLING ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES. The Texas State Library, through its various departments, offers many types of aid to all public libraries of Texas, and to groups endeavoring to establish town or county libraries. Material for library campaigns; library laws of Texas; building and equipment plans; bookmobile plans and costs of operation; book lists; and book selection aids, can be borrowed. Also, through inter-library loan, books of all types can be borrowed for short periods, such books being lent to libraries which cannot fill their patrons' requests from their own book stock.

The Legislative Reference Division sends regularly all state documents to those libraries needing them, or a check list to those libraries wishing to make selections only.

The employment file, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, is of real value to the librarians of the state, both employer and employee.

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CENSORSHIP: The American Library Association feels that a step toward censorship is almost inevitable, and in an effort to plan a blockade of such a movement it is setting up a committee which will put the force and influence of the A. L. A. behind any local library board which is confronted with demands for censorship of its books.

"Libraries must be universal. They are for all the people. A moment's thought will show that if every group could get the books thrown out of the libraries which it thinks bad, there would be no more libraries worth the name.

The very book which you want to find there is the book somebody else wants thrown out as evil. And the book you want thrown out is the book somebody else wants to consult. Group dictation can only destroy the very essence of libraries, and impair their usefulness to all." For copies of the A. L. A. "Library Bill of Rights" write to the Texas State Library. It will be helpful to post this brief statement in a conspicuous place in the library.

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"CALL TO ACTION." The presidental address of the newly elected president of A. L. A., Essae Martha Culver, delivered at the May conference in Cincinnati, was entitled "A Call to Action" and outlined a four-point program of action in working toward the goal of complete and adequate library coverage for the United States and Canada.

1. The continuation of effort for Federal and State funds for library work.
2. The provision of funds, from a friend with the vision and generosity of an Andrew Carnegie, for more demonstrations of the particular services needed in a state where no state extension agency exists.
3. The provision of funds for more national extension workers to give help in proper organization and formulation of an adequate law and other problems for which help is needed and asked.
4. The instigation of a training course to provide the proper equipment for directions of this important service.

CLINIC FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS. From June 11 to June 15 a clinic for school librarians was held at North Texas State Teachers' College, Denton. The Clinic was sponsored by the college's library service department. Dr. William Stanley Hoole, Librarian and Director of the North Texas State Teachers' College library, extended invitations to all elementary and high school librarians in the state and to anyone interested in the progress of school libraries. A most profitable meeting resulted. Emphasis was placed on the problems of elementary and high school libraries, on the practical approach toward the profession of school librarian, under the topics, cooperation, guidance, special materials, relationships, and democracy.

On the program were Margaret Sheers, chairman, library section, Texas State Teachers' Association; John Gunstream, member, Board of Directors, State Department of Education; Harry N. Peterson, librarian, Fort Worth Public Library; Dr. Hoole, and Dorothy Journeay, Director of Extension, Texas State Library, Austin.

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EVALUATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARIES. The School Division of the Texas Library Association met May 4, 1940 in Fort Worth. Miss Mary Clay, Chairman, presided. Miss Lucile F. Fargo, associate professor at Western Reserve Library School led a discussion on the evaluation of the secondary school library. Action was taken by the Division on appointment of a committee to present a report to the T. L. A. Executive Board for more adequate recognition of the School Division in the general association program and activities and also approval for the appointment of a legislative committee to investigate the matter of needed legislation for a state school library supervisor and legislation or state regulation for the legal certification of school librarians in Texas. Seventy-two were present at the School Breakfast.

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BOOKS FOR THE BLIND. The Texas State Library is anxious to get in touch with all blind persons in the state who would like to borrow books in the embossed types, both Braille and Moon. It would be a service to this Library and to the blind people in their communities if the local librarians would help us to seek out these people. Also, many persons whose eye sight is failing and who can no longer read print would find the books in Moon a source of pleasure. This system of raised type is very simple as the characters are modified forms of the English alphabet and anyone can learn to read them. This Library can furnish lists of books available in Braille and Moon to librarians who would like to use them as material for advertising this service. The Library undertakes to keep blind patrons supplied with reading matter by automatically returning a book to the reader each time one is received from him if he registers for this kind of service. The service is given directly from the Texas State Library to the individual, and the volumes are carried free of charge through the mails.

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EMPLOYMENT FILE. The Texas State Library maintains a file of trained librarians seeking employment and those wishing to advance their standing. The file is kept active and shows the qualifications of education, training and experience, also special aptitudes and preferences. These forms, with accompanying photographs, are lent upon request. The service is for all library employers and employees.

RECENT BOOK LISTS. The following book lists may be obtained at a small cost:

Safeguarding democracy. A list of 50 books in 2 parts. Readers' Advisory Service, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, N. Y.

1000 of the best novels. Newark Public Library, Newark, N. Y. 15¢

150 books of the last 3 years. Toronto Public Library. 15¢

50 outstanding books for Boy Scouts. (new ed.) Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Avenue, New York, 5¢

100 items which are library news. Free check list. A. L. A. Public Relations Division, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Also from the Public Relations Division may be obtained a list of suggestions for newspaper publicity for libraries in small cities and towns. This list was created by Irving Dillard, editorial writer for the St. Louis Post Dispatch and trustee of the Collinsville, Illinois, Memorial Public Library and Illinois State Historical Library. Single free copies obtainable.

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PUBLICITY HONOR ROLL. At the Cincinnati A. L. A. Public Relations Committee meeting May 27, fifty-two libraries were cited for outstanding library publicity. This citation marks the beginning of a three year plan sponsored by Halsey W. Wilson, president of the H. W. Wilson Co., and the Public Relations Committee to select and exhibit annually fine examples of public, school, college, state agencies and special library publicity.

Among those cited were two Texas libraries - Bexar County Library, San Antonio, and Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas.

Each publicity item submitted to the judges was judged on its appeal to those for whom it was intended.

These "Honor roll" selections, as they are called, are to be exhibited each year at the A. L. A. conference and later sent without charge to state and regional library meetings, library schools and individuals.

Requests to borrow the selections should be sent to Marie Loizeaux, H. W. Wilson Co., 958 University Ave., New York City.

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NEWBERY AND CALDECOTT AWARDS. The John Newbery medal which has been awarded annually since 1921 for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in the United States during the preceding year was awarded this year to James Daugherty for his Daniel Boone.

The Caldecott medal given annually since 1937 to the artist who has illustrated the most distinguished picture book for children during the preceding year was awarded to Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire for their Abraham Lincoln.

These awards were made May 28 at the A. L. A. meeting in Cincinnati.

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QUARTERLY REPORTS. The Harris and Bexar county libraries issue very attractive quarterly reports. They are in gay colors and contain interesting notes about the progress of the library as well as important statistical information.

THIS WORK PAYS YOUR COMMUNITY. May 20-25 was designated by the Professional and Service Division of the WPA to give a demonstration to the people of America of the work being done by its projects.

The State-wide Library Project under the leadership of Mr. Arthur R. Curry has done much to increase library service in Texas. It has given to many Texans the opportunity to enjoy free reading for the first time in their lives.

During "This work pays your community" week the many services of the WPA State-wide Library Project were displayed to the citizens of the State.

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LIBRARIES OF THE FUTURE. Miss Margaret Mann, professor emeritus of library science at the University of Michigan, in discussing library procedure in the future stressed the condensation of records through microfilming and predicted that catalogs of the future will probably be condensed through this medium.

She also said that "By 1958 the Library of Congress plans to have a daily, morning 5 minute television broadcast on a special wave length to all individual libraries answering graphically any questions that have been telegraphed in the previous day."

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500 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN. The U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education has issued a bulletin listing approximately 500 readable books for pre-school and elementary school children. It will be found useful as a buying guide and as a guide in children's reading. This bulletin may be obtained through your Congressman, or from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. for 15 cents. It is Bulletin 1939, No. 11.

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FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION. The Legislative Division of the Texas State Library calls attention to the beautiful 1940 Texas Highway Map with its photographic scenes of interesting Texas buildings, highways, and beauty spots, and brief descriptions of them. Attention is also called to the mimeographed pamphlet Texas prepared by the Texas Library and Historical Commission, which includes a brief introductory paragraph of the history of Texas, and innumerable valuable items such as the "State Seal and Flag", "State Holidays," "State Parks and Recreational Centers" and the words and music of "Texas, Our Texas".

The two above items can be had for the asking by writing to the Legislative Division, Texas State Library, Capitol Building, Austin.

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"GHOST COUNTIES OF TEXAS." Turner Van Eman, until recently an assistant in the Legislative Reference Division, has written a very interesting story, illustrated from official maps, for the October 1940, issue of Texas Bar Journal. "Ghost Counties of Texas" is the title.

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